

# HISTORIC CRIMES and MYSTERIES

By  
**WALT  
MASON**



## THE BRASS RING.

Anna Holzman, fifty years old and with the face and manners of a Gypsy, lived in a rented house in the outskirts of Augsburg. Anna moved in a mysterious way and her neighbors didn't know what to make of her. She was always asking charity, for one thing, yet it was generally believed that she had saved a large sum of money and had it hidden away somewhere.

The house she occupied was larger than she needed, so she furnished a large room and took two lodgers, young men named George Rauschmaier and Joseph Steiner.

It was in April, 1921, that the neighbors began to wonder where Anna was. It occurred to them suddenly that they hadn't seen her for two weeks. Inquiry revealed the fact that George and Joseph had changed their lodgings, and they were hunted up and questioned. They had no idea where the woman was, they said. She had



She Screamed "Murder" at the Top of Her Voice.

disappeared suddenly and they supposed she would be back in a day or two; but time went on and she didn't return, so they left the house, after reporting her absence to the landlord. They were not much surprised by her disappearance, they said, as she was forever doing strange and unaccountable things. The neighbors knew that this was true, so no suspicion was aroused.

Anna's brother appeared on the scene, and, after going through the house with the officers, declared that many small articles had been stolen. Here proceedings halted. It seemed impossible to shed a ray of light upon the mystery. Rauschmaier and Steiner were questioned over and over, but all that they could tell was unimportant.

Time passes at Augsburg, as elsewhere, and a new year was ushered in before a solution of the problem appeared. The house occupied by Anna had stood vacant since her disappearance, and one day in January, 1922, a landlady of the neighborhood wanted to dry some linen, and it occurred to her that the garret of the vacant house would be a good place.

She went into the house slyly but calmly, with her basket, and ten minutes later she emerged from it as though shot from a gun. She screamed "murder!" at the top of her voice, and the neighborhood was aroused. She had made a hideous discovery in the old garret, and when she had told her story the officers were sent for and a procession climbed the stairs of the Holzman home, and proceeded into the attic. There the body of the missing woman was found, but in such a condition that even the officers, who were old soldiers, were shocked.

The unfortunate woman had been dismembered. Portions of her body were found in an old heap of rags in one corner; another part in the chimney; another under a loose board in the floor. For some reason decomposition had not occurred, and it was easy to identify the scattered body as that of Anna Holzman, although the head had disappeared.

A medical officer found under a heap of rubbish the left arm of the woman. It was doubled together at the elbow joint, and when he tried to straighten it, a brass ring fell to the floor. It was the first and only valuable clue to the murderer. The doctor reasoned that it had fallen from his finger while he worked, and had been held in place on the arm by muscular contraction. The ring was turned over to the magistrate who took charge of the case.

Steiner had disappeared, but

Rauschmaier still lived in town and he was arrested at once, although there was no other reason for connecting him with the crime than the fact that he was living in the house when the woman disappeared. He was not at all disturbed by his arrest. In fact, being possessed of a sense of humor, he seemed much amused, and remarked that the stupidity of the police was ridiculous. He was taken to the morgue and shown the remains of the woman, and muttered some words of sorrow and sympathy. Not by the quiver of an eyelash did he show any symptom of guilt or uneasiness. The officers who accompanied him on this grisly errand were convinced that he was innocent.

He was examined over and over by the magistrate, and he never varied from his original story, except that he admitted having stolen several small articles before leaving the woman's house. He was desperately hard up at the time, was his excuse.

At last the magistrate seemed discouraged. He had laid all kinds of traps for George, and they had failed. The man couldn't be confused or rattled by any manner of questioning.

So the magistrate said: "I believe you are guilty, but it seems impossible to prove it, so I suppose you must be turned loose, but for the present the court will retain these articles of yours."

The articles were certain cheap pieces of jewelry which had been found in Rauschmaier's room after his arrest. Among them the magistrate had placed the brass ring.

George protested at once against this injustice. The articles were his own, and the court had no right to keep them. He made a great fuss, and the magistrate looked embarrassed and dubious.

"You are positive these things are your own?" he inquired, indifferently.

"Absolutely," replied George.

"That brass ring, for instance?"

"It is mine. I wore it for years."

George slipped it on his finger, which it fitted loosely.

"You have confessed!" said the magistrate, sternly.

The facts were explained to him, and the dilemma he found himself in did what all the questioning and

badgering had failed to accomplish. He broke down and made a full confession.

He had faith in the stories that Anna Holzman was rich, and had a large sum of money concealed in her house. He watched her for a long time, and finally concluded that she kept her money in a strong chest which was always carefully locked. His original idea was merely to steal the money, but he concluded after a time that this couldn't be done without removing the woman. So he waited for an opportunity.

One day Steiner went out to be gone a considerable time, and Rauschmaier felt that his chance had come. He stepped up behind the poor woman and placed his big muscular hands about her neck. She was small and weak, and died in his hands with but little struggle. Then he carried the body to the garret and dismembered it and concealed the fragments, where they had been found. The head he threw into the canal. That head had been found by a farmer shortly after the crime, but he threw it back into the canal, fearing it would get him into trouble.

Having committed one of the most cold-blooded murders ever recorded in criminal history, Rauschmaier went to the chest to get his reward. The only valuables in the chest were eight kronenzers. So he had done his hideous work for a few coppers.

Steiner was found and testified for the prosecution and Rauschmaier was convicted. He was sentenced to stand in the pillory for several hours, and then to have his head cut off with a sword. Appeals of clemency were made as the court generously remitted the pillory sentence, and nothing more serious than decapitation happened to him.

The probability is that the crime would never have been brought home to him but for that worthless brass ring.

That's All.

She—What did papa say when you told him of our engagement?

He—Well—er—really, dear—

She—Oh, you can leave out the swear words.

He—Then there's nothing to tell you.—Boston Evening Transcript.

Amplified Described.

"What kind of a fellow is he?"

"Oh, he's the kind of a fellow who goes out for a walk with you and then tells you how democratic he is—not afraid of being seen with anybody."—Yale Record.

## COMBINED DAIRY AND HORSE BARN

Such a Building Is a Valuable Part of Most Farms of Moderate Size.

LIGHT AND AIR ESSENTIAL

Special Provision Must Be Made for Feeding and for Cleaning Out the Litter and Storage Capacity Should Be Large.

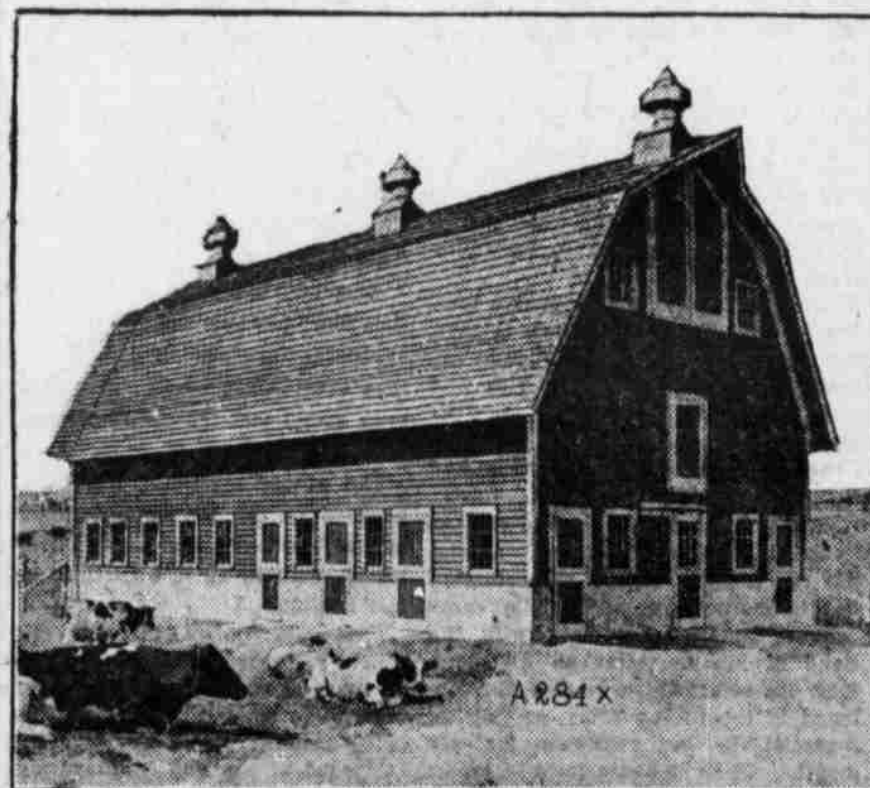
By WILLIAM A. RADFORD.

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building work on the farm, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

A barn which will accommodate both cows and horses is a valuable part of most moderate sized farms. It seldom pays to construct the large number of buildings which will separate the dairy herd and the beef herd from the horses unless the farm is quite large and each building may be of fairly generous dimensions. In case one barn is used for all purposes, there must be arrangements made whereby the advantages of separate housing for the stock may be realized as fully as possible in that part of the barn where the stock is kept. The essential necessities to maintain a healthy condition of the herd are that, first, plenty of good light and sunshine is furnished, and, second, that a generous supply of clean, fresh air is always caused to circulate through the stalls.

In a barn used to house all the live stock on the farm there is a very important requirement which must be met in order to facilitate maintenance of the animals without undue expense. This is that special provision must be made for feeding and for cleaning out the litter.

Since this building is no doubt the only one in which feed may be stored, it is necessary that the capacity be as large as possible, and in order to meet this prerequisite the roof must be carefully designed to include a maximum area in cross section. Cross braces are bothersome in filling the mow and they reduce the amount of material which



Horse Barn and Dairy Combined.

the barn will hold unless care is taken to fill in around them compactly. The best roof, then, a self-supporting roof, usually of the gambrel type. Farmers who become accustomed to feeding their cattle on ensilage and have determined the proper ration to use for each type of cow are generally won over to this method of feeding. They will require a silo in connection with their barn and will thus be able to store a great deal of good feed in a comparatively small space.

A size of barn design for use as both a dairy and a horse barn is shown in the accompanying illustration. This design is found to be very convenient on the average size farm requiring this type of barn. The width is 36 feet and the length is 74 feet. The plan is intended to represent a barn capable of accommodating 22 cows and six horses in the standing stalls. In addition there are three box stalls which may be used for any kind of live stock, since they are separated from the rest of the barn and may be entered from any side of the building. The box stalls are very large and well lighted and each has a hay rack built into one corner of the wall next to the feed alley. The horse stalls are arranged along the opposite side of the building from the box stalls and are provided with strong 2 by 8 plank partitions built

Mules Good Property.

A team of mules is a good property on any farm, as they are always ready for heavy and rough work, and are less liable to injury than horses.

Confine Sitting Hens.

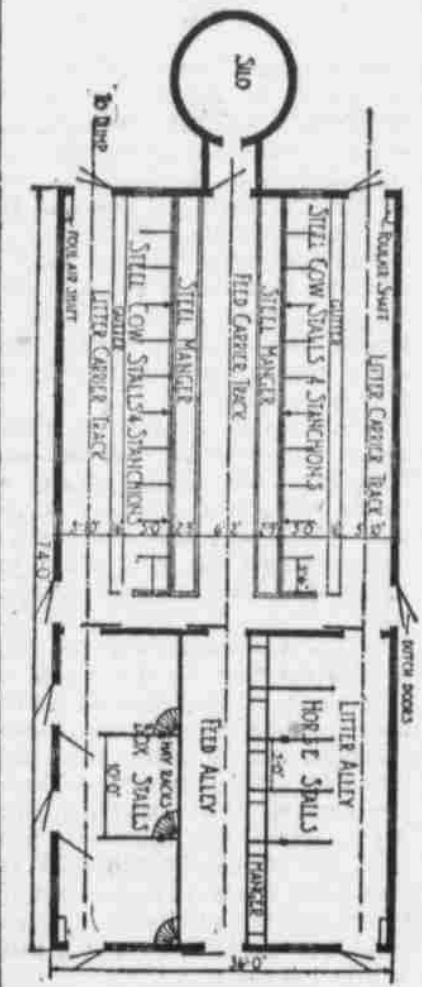
If several hens are set in one room it is desirable to confine them in good nests.

Profit in Mules.

There will be a good profit for any farmer who raises good mules for the next few years.

with air spaces between the planks to facilitate ventilation. The horse stable end of the barn is separated from the cow stable end by a wall in which there are three sliding doors. Four Dutch doors and one sliding door open into the horse stable.

Each cow stall has an iron stall partition separating it from its neighbors on both sides. These partitions take up practically no room and serve a very good purpose in preventing the cows from turning sideways and crowding the smaller animals. These partitions really effect a saving in room because they allow each cow just the right amount of space and, since they are thin, they do not themselves deduct from the available space. Dairy men who have iron stall partitions very sel-



Floor Plan.

dom care to get along without them afterwards. Two steel mangers run along the sides of the feed alley in the center of the barn. A track is fitted overhead down the center of this alley from the horse stable end of the barn to the silo. This carrier track will prove to be a great help in feeding the stock. Furthermore, a track is placed behind the stalls for a litter carrier. There are two of these extending from one end of the barn, along each side, to the other end and on out to the dump. There is no reason why this barn cannot be kept clean and sanitary

## OUT-OF-ORDINARY PEOPLE

### TOMBIGBEE CANDLER

Zeke Candler, representative from Mississippi, worships the Tombigbee river so fervently that in Washington he is known as Tombigbee Candler and the stream is called the Candler Tombigbee.

Each year the treasury opens and pours a mellow stream of gold into the Tombigbee for improvement purposes, and each year, in praise of this gracious act on the part of Uncle Sam, Tombigbee Zeke arises in his place on the floor of the house and sings a song of praise.

Tombigbee Candler made no speech this year. Consequently when the item was reached in the rivers and harbors bill Representative Madden rolled a Chicago stone crusher into the house and endeavored to smash the Tombigbee's \$35,000.

"This is an unimportant river," he said with a grin.

"But it is a very beautiful one?" suggested Nick Longworth.

At this point Zeke Candler arose in his might and delivered the ultimatum that if the Tombigbee was stricken from the bill the measure could not pass.

"Is that so?" said Jim Mann. "Well, the senate passed a bill the other day where this river is slurringly referred to as the Tom Beckby. Now I want to know whether the gentleman calls this the Tombigbee river or the Tom Beckby, two names."

"Even the senate of the United States," replied Zeke with great dignity, "if it were an august body of idiots, would not undertake to change the name of the Tombigbee, because if they did it would change the history of the United States of America."



HARRIS & EWING

### LANE AND THE SIOUX



HARRIS & EWING

Secretary Lane is nearly always dramatic and some times a little theatrical in his dealing with the copper-colored inhabitants of the western part of the United States. Recently he and a party went to Yankton, S. D., to confer citizenship on 186 Sioux Indians. He invented a brand new ceremonial and did things up brown, so to speak.

Secretary Lane told the Indians that the great White Father had sent him to speak a serious and solemn word. Then each chosen Indian was called from the crowd by his white name, handed a bow and arrow and directed to shoot it. The secretary then said:

"You have shot your last arrow. That means that you are no longer to live the life of an Indian. You are from this day forward to live the life of a white man. But you may keep that arrow, it will be to you a symbol of your noble race, and of the pride you feel that you come from the first of all Americans."

The Indians were all given a badge of American citizenship and a United States flag. To each of the women were given a work bag and a purse.

### CHAMPION OF KANSAS

Representative Joseph Taggart of Kansas is quick to resent any slam at the Sunflower state and bristles up whenever one seeks to revive bewhiskered Kansas jokes which were popular (outside of Kansas) a quarter of a century ago. Knowing Taggart's regard for the dignity of his home state, several of his colleagues on the house judiciary committee planned a bit of fun.

There was a meeting before the committee, which Taggart was unable to attend, on the woman suffrage resolution. A New York lawyer appeared in behalf of the "antis" and presented an argument against national enfranchisement of the gentler sex. He spoke generally and did not refer to any state now boasting equal rights. Taggart's colleagues, however, told him the lawyer had lambasted Kansas. At the next meeting of the committee the lawyer reappeared. Taggart was on hand and grilled the New Yorker unmercifully. The lawyer defended himself as best he could under the cross-examination.

When the meeting adjourned the lawyer asked Taggart why he had been so severe. The congressman retorted that he would not permit any man to belittle Kansas. The lawyer insisted he said nothing that could be considered derogatory to the western commonwealth and, in fact, had a high opinion of the people of the state.

Taggart at this moment happened to look around and caught his colleagues smiling broadly. Explanations followed. Taggart apologized to the New Yorker, but is awaiting an opportunity to get even with the practical jokers.

### ESTHER CLEVELAND AIDS THE BLIND



INTERNATIONAL FILM SERVICE

Miss Esther Cleveland, daughter of the late Grover Cleveland and known in her early childhood as the "White House Baby," has been associated with Red Cross work and is now aiding the work of the allies in the care of the blind at St. Dunstan's college, Regent's park, London.

Miss Cleveland was born in Washington during her father's term as president and there have been many false reports of her engagement since she was presented to society.

Before going abroad to aid in caring for the blind she devoted several months to studying the system in use in the Pennsylvania Institute for the Instruction of the Blind, so when she was ready to offer her services she was qualified to render service. Miss Cleveland had previously been graduated at a training school of nurses and would have been efficient in that kind of aid, but so many men were being blinded in the European war that assistance for those thus afflicted appeared more desirable, and she devoted her time to learning how to instruct these sufferers before she proffered her services.